B. Education . . . 12
C. Health care . . . 13
VII. Environment . . . 13
VIII. Relations with international organizations and partners . . . 14
IX. Future status of the Territory . . . 15
A. Position of the territorial Government . . . 15
B. Position of the administering Power . . . 15
X. Consideration by the United Nations . . . 15
A. Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) . . . 15
B. Action taken by the General Assembly . . . 16

The Territory at a glance

Territory: Guam is a Non-Self-Governing Territory administered by the United States of America. As an unincorporated organized territory of the United States, it is administered by the Office of Insular Affairs of the United States Department of the Interior.

Geography: Guam is the southernmost and largest of the Mariana Islands in the Pacific Ocean, situated about 2,200 km south of Tokyo and 6,000 km west-south-west of Hawaii. It consists of a single island comprising two distinct geologic areas of about equal size. The northern part of the island is a high coralline limestone plateau and the southern region is mountainous. Apra Harbor is one of the largest deep-water ports in the Pacific.

Land area: 540 km^2.

Exclusive economic zone: 214,059 km^2.[a]

Population: 159,358 (2010 census).

Languages: English and Chamorro.

Ethnic composition (2000 census): 37.1 per cent Chamorro; 26.3 per cent Filipino; 11.3 per cent other Pacific islanders; 6.9 per cent white; 6.3 per cent Asian; 2.3 per cent other ethnic origin; and 9.8 per cent mixed.

Capital: Hagåtña.

Head of the territorial Government: Eddie Baza Calvo (elected Governor in November 2010).

Territory's delegate to the United States Congress: Madeleine Z. Bordallo (re-elected in 2012).

Main political parties: Democratic and Republican Parties.

Elections: Most recent: 2012; next: September 2014.

Legislature: Unicameral 15-member legislature. Guam has a locally elected Government, which comprises separate executive, legislative and judicial branches.

Gross domestic product (GDP) per capita: $25,388 (2005 chained dollars, 2013 estimate).

Economy: Principal sources of revenue: tourism and the United States military presence.

Unemployment: 13.3 per cent (March 2013).

Monetary unit: United States dollar.

Brief history: The island was inhabited by the indigenous Chamorro people of Malayo-Polynesian descent when missionaries from Spain arrived in Guam in the late seventeenth century. The Chamorro now constitute just over one third of the population and play an active role in the political and social life of the island.

[a] Exclusive economic zone data derived from Johann D. Bell, Johanna E. Johnson and Alistair J. Hobday, eds., Vulnerability of Tropical Pacific Fisheries and Aquaculture to Climate Change (Nouméa, New Caledonia, Secretariat of the Pacific Community, 2011), e-book. Available from www.spc.int/climate-change/fisheries/assessment/e-book.

I. Constitutional, legal and political issues

1. Guam was administered by the Department of the Navy of the United States of America until 1950, when the United States Congress enacted the Organic Act of Guam, which established institutions of local Government and made Guam an unincorporated territory of the United States with limited self-governing authority. Since then, the Territory has been administered by the Department of the Interior. Guam is an unincorporated territory, since not all provisions of the United States Constitution apply to the island. As such, Guam is a possession but not part of the United States.

2. The United States Constitution does not permit Guam to appoint electors of the President and Vice-President of the United States. The people of Guam elect a Governor, who serves for a four-year term. No person who has been elected Governor for two full successive terms shall again be eligible to hold that office until one full term has elapsed. The Governor is responsible for the general supervision and control of the executive branch and submits an annual report to the United States Secretary of the Interior for transmission to Congress. The Governor may issue executive orders and regulations, recommend bills to the legislature, make his or her views known to that body and veto legislation. Following the November 2010 elections, Eddie Baza Calvo (Republican) was declared the new Governor of Guam.

3. Fifteen senators who serve two-year terms in the unicameral legislature are also elected. The legislature may override the Governor's veto. Under the 1950 Organic Act of Guam, the United States Congress reserves the authority to annul any law enacted by the Guam legislature. Guam has two main political parties, the Republican Party and the Democratic Party, which are local chapters of the two main United States political parties. In the November 2012 legislative elections, the Democrats won nine seats, and the Republicans six seats.

4. Since 1972, Guam has had one delegate to the United States House of Representatives. As previously reported, the delegate, who serves a two-year term, may vote in committee and, since January 2007, on floor amendments, but not on the final approval of bills. In the November 2012 elections, Madeleine Z. Bordallo, a Democrat, was re-elected for her sixth term as delegate to the United States Congress with 58 per cent of the votes.

5. The judicial system in Guam comprises local and federal components. The local judicial system consists of a Superior Court and a Supreme Court, which are led by judges appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the legislature. Local judges are subject to confirmation by voters every six years. In 2004, the judiciary of Guam was established as an independent branch of Government. The law confirmed the appellate jurisdiction and administrative authority of the Supreme Court of Guam over all inferior courts in the Territory, thereby effectively establishing a unified local judiciary.

6. At the federal level, a District Court judge, appointed by the President of the United States, is the head of the United States District Court of Guam. In 1998, Congress adopted an amendment to the Organic Act of Guam, allowing the Guam legislature to elect its own Attorney General for a four-year term. The Attorney General is the chief legal officer of the Government of Guam and is empowered with prosecutorial authority.

7. Periodically, there have been moves to change the island's political status. The Guam legislature established the first Political Status Commission in April 1973. In a 1976 referendum, Guamanians decided to maintain close ties with the United States, but also to begin negotiations to improve the Territory's status. In 1979, the people of Guam rejected a draft constitution by a margin of 5 to 1, mainly on the grounds that the question of political status had to be resolved before a meaningful constitution could be drafted. Another referendum was held in 1982, with 73 per cent of voters opting to pursue commonwealth status with the United States.

8. The Commission on Self-Determination, established in 1980, completed a draft commonwealth act in 1986, which, after a public education campaign, was submitted for an article-by-article vote on 8 August 1987 (see A/AC.109/1192, paras. 19-37). Voters approved the core proposals but rejected articles empowering the Government of Guam to restrict immigration and granting the indigenous Chamorro people the right to determine the future political status of the Territory. In a further referendum in November 1987, both of those outstanding provisions were approved after having been amended and rewritten. A summary of the main points in the draft commonwealth act is contained in a 2001 working paper (A/AC.109/2001/4).

9. Subsequent discussions, held from 1989 to 1997, between the Commission and the Government of the United States on a commonwealth agreement did not reach a resolution. In 1997, Guam Public Law 23-147 established the Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination in order to address an important but controversial issue involving the Chamorro population. The Commission, in concert with a process of registration of eligible voters organized by the Guam Election Commission, was to oversee the conduct of a vote with regard to the status preferences of the Chamorro people (independence, integration or free association), in accordance with international standards.

10. In 2000, the Guam legislature provided the Guam Election Commission with the power to set the date of the decolonization plebiscite, in which it was expected that the Territory's indigenous people would be asked to choose between statehood, independence and free association with the United States. The plebiscite would have been non-binding but would at the same time have set the course for any future discussions of political status with the administering Power. The vote, scheduled to take place on 2 November 2004, was postponed because eligible voters had not been identified and registered. In October 2010, the President of the United States, Barack Obama, signed bill H.R. 3940 into law. The Law clarifies the Secretary of the Interior's authority and obligation to provide federal funding for political status education in Guam. It should help the people of Guam become aware of their constitutionally viable political options. Eligible voters are those who can trace their roots back to those residents living on the island at the time of the passage of the Organic Act in 1950 who were made citizens by federal law. Universal suffrage with respect to elections applies to United States citizens who are 18 years of age or over and legally resident in Guam. All persons born in Guam and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States are citizens of the United States. The Guam Election Commission announced that there were 45,732 registered voters as at August 2013 and 6,340 registered native inhabitants as at November 2012.

11. In 2011, Mr. Calvo convened the Commission on Decolonization for the first time in about a decade. The Commission is preparing a preliminary report on an education programme designed to keep residents informed regarding the future plebiscite vote for self-determination. The report will detail timelines and procedures and must be submitted to the Guam legislature for review.

12. During the Caribbean regional seminar on the implementation of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, held in Quito from 28 to 30 May 2013, the representative of the Government of Guam presented information on the efforts of the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination to raise public awareness and find creative ways to raise funds for the Territory's education programme and on the importance of public outreach, as the Commission continued to meet with and speak before public high schools, civil society organizations and cultural groups, in emphasizing the correct messaging to the masses. In conclusion, he proposed that the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs of the Secretariat begin supplying information on political status options, since the lack of such information impeded territories from knowing more about the three status options, thus hindering their path to decolonization. He also proposed that the General Assembly endorse a work programme for the decolonization of each territory and that periodical analyses be conducted on progress made in and the extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. He called on the Special Committee to implement the recommendations of the Assembly, as a matter of urgency, before decolonization faded in importance and before it became too difficult to counter the tendency to legitimize unequal territorial relationships.

II. Military and related issues

13. As previously reported, in 2009 the United States decided that United States Marine Corps capabilities in the Pacific region would be realigned by 2014, through the transfer of United States military personnel from Okinawa, Japan, to Guam.

14. On 5 January 2012, the United States President released a new strategic guidance document that directed rebalancing towards a strengthened presence in the Asia-Pacific region. In March, the United States Department of Defense tasked the Center for Strategic and International Studies with conducting an independent assessment of the United States posture in the Pacific. On 24 July 2012, the Secretary of Defense submitted to Congress the Center's assessment, together with his disagreement with the Center's suggestion that the Department could consider moving fewer than approximately 5,000 marines to Guam, as moving fewer than that number would undermine the United States plan to establish multiple, fully capable marine air-ground task forces across the Asia-Pacific region.

15. On 26 April 2012, a joint United States-Japan statement specified that, out of about 9,000 marines to be relocated from Okinawa, 5,000 of them would move to Guam when appropriate facilities were available to receive them. The move would cost a total of $8.6 billion, with Japan contributing $3.1 billion.

16. In December 2013, the United States Government Accountability Office published a report entitled "Further analysis needed to identify Guam's public infrastructure requirements and costs for the Department of Defense's realignment

plan". In the conference report accompanying the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013, the Government Accountability Office was mandated to evaluate what public infrastructure projects were needed in Guam to support the plans of the Department of Defense. The report contained a description of the public infrastructure of Guam and the types of assistance generally provided by the Department of Defense and other sources of funding for projects in Guam, an assessment of the efforts made by the Department of Defense to revalidate projects in Guam under the revised realignment plan and an estimate of the cost of public water and wastewater infrastructure improvements in Guam to support Department of Defense budget requests. The Government Accountability Office found that the reliability, capacity and age of much of the public infrastructure — especially the island's utilities — indicated that additional upgrades were needed to meet current and future demands related to the realignment. In its report, the Government Accountability Office noted that, notwithstanding the reduction in marines and their dependents relocating to Guam, the Department of Defense had not yet revalidated the public infrastructure requirements based on the revised realignment plan or differentiated between requirements needed to address long-standing conditions and those related to the realignment. This revalidation is not expected to be completed until 2015. In addition, the estimate of $1.3 billion for improvements to the water and wastewater systems that the Department of Defense had used to support budget requests for fiscal years 2013 and 2014 was found to be unreliable. The recommendations of the Government Accountability Office included that the Department of Defense take action to revalidate public infrastructure needs in Guam based on the size of the revised realignment and to ensure that best practices are used to develop future cost estimates.

17. According to the administering Power, on 12 December 2013 the House of Representatives passed the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014, which authorizes and sets policy for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2014. The bill authorizes $552.1 billion for the Department of Defense and $80.7 billion for the funding of overseas contingency operations. It also authorizes the appropriation of $494.6 million in military construction funds for Guam, including $85.6 million for a United States Marine Corps aircraft hangar at North Ramp on Andersen Air Force Base, which directly supports the realignment of marines from Okinawa to Guam. The bill provides for the use of funds from the Government of Japan for a site improvement project worth $114 million at North Ramp on Andersen Air Force Base, as well as unlimited funds for use in planning and designing future projects. Pursuant to the provisions of the bill, the Department of Defense is required to convene a meeting of the Economic Adjustment Committee within 90 days of the passage of the bill to better validate civilian infrastructure funding in Guam and produce a final report on such funding at the time of signing the "record of decision" on the realignment of marines to Guam. On 26 December 2013, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 was passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate and signed into law by the United States President.

III. Land issues

18. The question of land use and landownership encompasses two major issues: the return of unused or underutilized lands held by the United States Department of

Defense and the return of those lands to the original Chamorro landowners. In view of the envisaged military build-up, the Department of Defense has been interested in acquiring at least an additional 2,200 acres of non-federal land. Of the 147,000 acres of land available on Guam, the Department of Defense currently possesses 40,000 acres, or 27.21 per cent of the island's land mass. Private landowners in the Territory have the right to refuse to sell any of their land for military purposes. With regard to public land, such requests would need the approval of the Guam legislature.

19. It has been reported that the Department of Defense and Guam are at an impasse over the question of the use of ancestral land for a Marine Corps firing range. The military has been unable to get the support needed from the Government of Guam to place Marine live-fire ranges on ancient Chamorro land at Pagat Village, a federally registered archaeological site that holds deep meaning for many inhabitants of the island. The Government of Guam signed the Programmatic Agreement in March 2011 to preserve cultural and historical properties on the island during the build-up in preparation for the transfer of marines, their dependants and support staff as early as 2016.

IV. Budget

20. The budget comprises revenues received by the Government of Guam and federal grants, with the latter generally allocated, on an ad hoc basis, to particular sectors through the Department of the Interior. The territorial Government's operating revenues fall under four classifications: General Fund, Special Funds, Federal Grant-in-Aid and Semi-Autonomous and Autonomous Agencies Operating Funds. According to federal law, all island residents, including military personnel, must pay income taxes to the Guam General Fund and not to the federal Government. The Governor has the power to veto a budget bill; however, the legislature can either override the Governor's veto by a special majority or reconsider the bill.

21. In September 2013, the Governor signed into law the budget for the fiscal year ending on 30 September 2014 but imposed a line-item veto on the amount appropriated for the Office of Finance and Budget. Projected gross revenues for the General Fund were $702.4 million, an amount that was approximately $13.3 million greater than the General Fund revenues identified in the appropriations act for fiscal year 2013 of $689.1 million, an increase of approximately 1.9 per cent. The total General Fund revenue amount that was available for appropriations was $565.6 million; that represented an increase of less than 1 per cent over the amount identified in the appropriations act for fiscal year 2013. Overall Special Funds revenues were projected at $164.7 million and the federal match was projected at $43.7 million.

22. In January 2014, the Office of the Governor submitted its budget plan for fiscal year 2015 to the Guam legislature. Revenue projections amount to $863.8 million, which represents an increase of 7 per cent over the current fiscal year. The budget reflects an improvement in the island's economic outlook for 2015 owing to an increase in construction projects and tourism.

V. Economy

A. General

23. The economy of Guam continues to be based on two main pillars: tourism and the military. The Territory has been attempting to create an environment conducive to the development of other industries, such as financial services, telecommunications and transportation. Manufactured products include textiles and garments, cement and plastics. Re-exports constitute a high proportion of the Territory's exports, which include petroleum products, iron and steel scrap, automobiles, and tobacco and cigars. The main trading partners of the Territory include the United States, Japan, Germany and China.

24. In December 2013, the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis released estimates of the gross domestic product (GDP) of Guam for 2011 and 2012, as well as GDP and compensation estimates by industry for 2011. The estimates indicate that real GDP decreased by 0.6 per cent in 2011 and increased by 0.5 per cent in 2012. In 2011, the decline in real GDP reflected a decrease in private fixed investment and deterioration in the trade balance that was partially offset by growth in spending by the territorial Government. The decrease in private fixed investment reflected a drop in private construction activity, including the suspension of a major residential construction project. The increase in spending by the territorial Government reflected growth in government construction activity. In 2012, the increase in real GDP reflected an improvement in the trade balance that was partly offset by decreases in government spending. The export of services, which consisted mainly of spending by tourists, contributed to economic growth. Both federal and territorial Government spending detracted from growth, as government construction activity fell and compensation of employees decreased.

B. Tourism

25. According to the executive budget for fiscal year 2014, the total number of visitor arrivals in Guam in 2012 was 1,307,796, a 12.8 per cent increase over the 2011 figure and the highest since 2000. The Guam Visitors Bureau projected a 3.8 per cent increase in fiscal year 2013 and another 2.6 per cent increase in fiscal year 2014.

26. Visitor arrivals in Guam will continue to be facilitated by visa waiver programmes implemented in previous years, as well as faster processing of visas for visitors from the mainland of China. Japan has the largest share of tourists in Guam, although the share has been declining somewhat, owing also to the successful expansion of and diversification to other markets. Between December 2012 and December 2013, arrivals to Guam from China increased by 23.6 per cent, arrivals from the Republic of Korea by 15.9 per cent and arrivals from the Russian Federation by 147.8 per cent. Meanwhile, arrivals from Japan decreased by 6.1 per cent.

C. Transport and communications

27. The Territory's road network is just less than 1,000 miles long. Of this, 420 miles are classified as "non-public". Of the 550 miles of public roads, there are approximately 144 miles of primary and some secondary roads. To maintain the territorial highway system, the Government receives funding from the United States Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration.

28. The Port Authority, which is a public corporation and an autonomous agency of the Government of Guam, administers the commercial port facilities at Apra Harbor, which is the entry point for 95 per cent of all goods entering Guam and serves as a trans-shipment centre for Micronesia. In its 2013 report (see para. 16 above), the Government Accountability Office noted that according to the Port Authority of Guam and Department of Defense officials, the Port of Guam was outdated, in need of repair and required expansion in order to support the realignment.

29. The 2030 Guam Transportation Plan, approved by the Guam legislature, became an official component of the island's Comprehensive Development Plan. The Plan, which is a long-term strategy designed to improve the Territory's transportation system, incorporates improvements to roadways and mass transportation, while accommodating pedestrians and bicycles. It also addresses other issues, such as the proposed military build-up.

30. In 2012, the Department of Public Works of the Government of Guam developed the Guam Transportation Improvement Plan for fiscal years 2012 to 2015, in addition to the 2030 Guam Transportation Plan. The Transportation Improvement Plan for 2012-2015 provides a list of near-term projects addressing safety, pavement, bridge conditions and traffic operations in consultation with the Federal Highway Administration and inputs from the public.

D. Water system, sanitation and utilities

31. According to the 2013 report of the Government Accountability Office (see para. 16 above), the water and wastewater treatment systems of Guam have a number of deficiencies as a result of natural disasters, poor maintenance and vandalism. Although the Guam Waterworks Authority has invested more than $158 million in improvements to its water and wastewater systems over the past 10 years, the Authority continues to operate under an order issued by the United States District Court for the District of Guam requiring various treatment and infrastructure improvements because of issues related to compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Clean Water Act. The potable water system of Guam is currently non-compliant with the Safe Drinking Water Act. According to the Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the wastewater plants in Guam do not meet primary treatment standards and lack sufficient capacity owing to the poor condition of existing assets. The Government Accountability Office, in its report, noted that in terms of supporting the current military presence in Guam, the Authority provided wastewater services to the Andersen Air Force Base (including Northwest Field), the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Station Guam and the South Finegayan navy housing area. However, according to representatives of the legislature of Guam and the Chairman of the Consolidated Commission on

Utilities, the Authority is operating near capacity and is unable to meet any surge in demand related to the realignment without significant infrastructure improvements.

32. The Government Accountability Office also reported that the Guam Power Authority provides all the electricity on the island for both the public and the Department of Defense, which is the Authority's largest customer, accounting for 22 per cent of revenue in 2012. The electric power system of Guam has experienced reliability problems that have resulted in power outages and is dependent on ageing generators approaching the end of their life expectancy. This situation recalled the findings of a 2012 report of the Inspector General of the Department of the Interior, which found that Guam was susceptible to power blackouts and noted that about a quarter of the Guam Power Authority's generation units had been installed before 1976. The conclusion was reached that, should the Authority have to replace its entire ageing infrastructure at once, it would require a large financial investment.

E. Agriculture and fisheries

33. The farming and fishing sectors are relatively well developed. The main types of produce are vegetables, citrus and tropical fruits, coconuts and sugar cane. The various divisions of the Department of Agriculture deal with animal and plant industry, agricultural development, forestry and soil resources and aquatic and wildlife resources.

34. At a 2009 meeting in Hawaii, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council recommended that the United States Department of Defense and the National Marine Fisheries Service investigate and address the issue of the impact of the ongoing military build-up on local fishing communities and that a mitigation and compensation plan be developed to assist those affected, including in Guam. No follow-up action has been reported thus far.

VI. Social conditions

A. Labour

35. According to the Guam Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate in Guam in March 2013 was 13.3 per cent, an increase of 2.6 percentage points from the December 2012 figure of 10.7 per cent and an increase of 1.5 percentage points from the March 2012 figure of 11.8 per cent. In March 2013, the total number of unemployed was 9,730, an increase of 1,670 over March 2012.

B. Education

36. Guam has an extensive public and private education system. The public education system includes the University of Guam and Guam Community College. The Guam Department of Education is responsible for nearly 30,000 students in 41 schools. Approximately 25 private schools, including 2 business colleges, 5 high schools and a number of elementary schools, are mostly affiliated with Roman Catholic and Protestant religious denominations. The Territory receives millions of dollars in federal funding each year to support such programmes as special

education, summer school, the school lunch programme and the after-school Department of Education Extended Day programme.

C. Health care

37. The estimated life expectancy of Guamanians is about 75 years for males and 81 years for females. The Guam Memorial Hospital Authority is the only civilian in-patient medical facility that serves the public sector. The Authority has a capacity of 172 acute-care beds and 30 long-term care beds. The United States Naval Hospital primarily serves the military sector. There are three community/public health centres, one located in the north, one in the south and one in central Guam. Guam has 271 doctors and 92 medical clinics.

38. The Government Accountability Office, in its 2013 report (see para. 16 above), noted that the health system of Guam is undersized. Officials from the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority participating in the supplemental environmental impact statement acknowledged that, using national hospital standards, Guam needed approximately 500 acute-care beds to fully meet the island's needs; the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, however, provided only 162 such beds. In addition to these infrastructure challenges, officials identified a number of problems related to staffing, including difficulty in recruiting and retaining an adequate number of health-care personnel. The United States Department of Health and Human Services has designated Guam as a medically underserved area, which means that it has too few primary care providers, a high rate of infant mortality, a high rate of poverty and/or a large elderly population. Guam also qualifies as a health professional shortage area, which means that it experiences shortages of primary medical care, dental or mental health providers. Although military personnel and their dependents generally do not use local health facilities, the Government of Guam anticipates that any Department of Defense civilian, any migrant and any construction worker associated with the realignment will be able to use the facilities.

39. According to the World Health Organization Country Cooperation Strategy for Guam 2013-2017, the prevalence of non-communicable diseases in Guam continues to rise. As part of the military build-up, a new military hospital is being built to replace the current one built in 1954, and construction is expected to be completed in 2014. The hospital will have 42 in-patient beds and 6 beds in the intensive care unit.

VII. Environment

40. The Guam Environmental Protection Agency comprises five components: the Administrative Services Division, the Environmental Monitoring and Analytical Services Division, the Environmental Planning and Review Division, the Air and Land Programs Division and the Water Programs Division. Guam continues to experience environmental problems related to the United States occupation during the Second World War and the atomic testing conducted by the administering Power in the Marshall Islands in the 1950s. Additional details can be found in previous working papers. To date, no official reports exist on the continuing high-level radiation spill from the Fukushima Daiichi plant into the Pacific Ocean.

41. As stated in the report of the Guam Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, the Guam Environmental Protection Agency implements various programmes that monitor the status of the environment on a regular basis. United States Environmental Protection Agency regulations apply to Guam, but in some cases the Territory's own laws are more stringent than those of the United States. Guam is a relatively small and high-density island; hence its marine environment constitutes a key litmus test with respect to the overall environmental impact of human activity on the land. The quality of the marine waters has generally been found to be excellent across all indicators. Soil erosion, which is associated with construction activity or natural erosion, is another area of special concern in southern Guam, since sedimentation has resulted in the destruction of coral reefs in areas adjacent to the mouths of rivers.

42. Solid-waste landfills are another area of concern in Guam, given the limited land area. Problems are being magnified as the standard of living changes and increases in population and industrial activity bring more goods and commodities to the island. In its 2013 report, the Government Accounting Office noted that the existing landfill on Guam is environmentally compliant, has adequate capacity to meet current solid waste disposal needs and has enough expansion capacity to meet future needs related to the realignment. According to the Government of Guam, however, the new landfill cannot be used for certain types of waste, including construction and demolition waste. As a result, meeting organic and realignment-related solid waste disposal needs will require the Government to continue to develop systems to handle waste that cannot be disposed of in the landfill and construct and open new solid waste disposal areas.

43. Thirty-three per cent of the world's cyclones develop in the immediate area around Guam. In addition, according to the Global Assessment of Human-Induced Soil Degradation, the area of degraded soil in the Pacific is extensive. In Guam, major road building on steep slopes has caused erosion, and the resulting sedimentation has killed coral colonies on fringing reefs.

44. Before any marines can relocate to Guam, the Department of Defense must, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, examine the environmental effects of its proposed actions. Early in December 2012, the Department of the Navy announced that the public scoping assessment for the supplemental environmental impact statement had ended after a three-month period. The Joint Guam Program Office had held three public scoping meetings on Guam and met with more than 240 members of the public, including interest groups, representatives from the Guam legislature, some federal and local agencies and the Office of the Governor of Guam. The final document is expected to be released in 2014, and the record of decision, the final step in the supplemental environmental impact statement process, would be released only in 2015.

VIII. Relations with international organizations and partners

45. Guam has been an associate member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific since 24 July 1981. The Territory is a member of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, the Micronesian Chief Executives Summit, the Pacific Basin Development Council, the Pacific Islands Development Programme, the Pacific Asia Travel Association and the South Pacific Regional

Environment Programme. It also participates in the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission and the Pacific Community Coastal Fisheries Programme. Guam has observer status in the Alliance of Small Island States. In 2011, Guam was granted observer status in the Pacific Islands Forum.

IX. Future status of the Territory

A. Position of the territorial Government

46. Developments regarding discussions on the future status of Guam are considered in section I above.

B. Position of the administering Power

47. In a letter dated 2 November 2006 addressed to the delegate of American Samoa to the United States House of Representatives, the Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs elaborated on the position of the Government of the United States. In his letter, the Assistant Secretary of State indicated that the status of the insular areas regarding their political relations with the federal Government was an internal United States issue, and not one that came within the purview of the Special Committee. He also noted that the Special Committee had no authority to alter in any way the relationship between the United States and those territories and no mandate to engage the United States in negotiations on their status. He further noted that, at the same time, in accordance with its obligations under the Charter of the United Nations to provide regularly to the United Nations statistical and other information of a technical nature relating to the economic, social and educational conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, the federal Government submitted annual updates on United States Territories to the Special Committee as a demonstration of United States cooperation as an administering Power and as a corrective to any errors in information that the Special Committee might have received from other sources.

X. Consideration by the United Nations

A. Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

48. At its 4th meeting, on 8 October 2013, the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) of the General Assembly heard a petitioner representing the Chamorro diaspora, Tiara R. Na'puti, who shared information on the three most pressing issues facing the island and demanded action from the United Nations in the context of the Third International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Ms. Na'puti said that in June 2012 the District Court of Guam had ruled that a lawsuit against the planned self-determination plebiscite, seeking to strike down the voters' eligibility restriction, was not ripe for legal discussion. An appeal had been filed, however, resulting in the plebiscite being postponed, pending completion of the Chamorro registry. Regarding self-determination education, Ms. Na'puti spoke about the lack of funding to

educate voters and expressed the hope that the United Nations would provide assistance in that endeavour. Ms. Na'puti also noted the severe impact on the environment and lives of the people of Guam, as well as the region, of the island's militarization by the United States. In conclusion, she stressed that the United Nations should endorse a work programme for decolonization and that the Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political Affairs should provide information, facilitating a path towards decolonization for Guam and other territories.

B. Action taken by the General Assembly

49. On 11 December 2013, the General Assembly adopted without a vote resolutions 68/95 A and B on the basis of the report of the Special Committee transmitted to the General Assembly (A/68/23) and its subsequent consideration by the Fourth Committee. Section VI of resolution 68/95 B concerns Guam. In the operative paragraphs of that section, the General Assembly:

1. *Welcomes* the convening of the Guam Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-Determination in 2011 and its work on a self-determination vote, as well as its public education efforts;

2. *Calls once again upon* the administering Power to take into consideration the expressed will of the Chamorro people as supported by Guam voters in the referendum of 1987 and as subsequently provided for in Guam law regarding Chamorro self-determination efforts, encourages the administering Power and the territorial Government to enter into negotiations on the matter, and stresses the need for continued close monitoring of the overall situation in the Territory;

3. *Requests* the administering Power, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory, to continue to recognize and to respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam and to take all measures necessary to address the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the question of immigration;

4. *Also requests* the administering Power to assist the Territory by facilitating public outreach efforts, including through the funding of the public education campaign, consistent with Article 73 *b* of the Charter, and in that regard calls upon the relevant United Nations organizations to provide assistance to the Territory, if requested, and welcomes the recent outreach work by the territorial Government;

5. *Further requests* the administering Power to cooperate in establishing programmes for the sustainable development of the economic activities and enterprises of the Territory, noting the special role of the Chamorro people in the development of Guam.